



NEWS

from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

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**NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGES, OTHER FACILITIES,
CLOSED TO VISITORS, U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SAYS**

Effective immediately, all national wildlife refuges, national fish hatcheries, offices, and other facilities will be closed because of a lack of Federal funding, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service said today.

All public programs are cancelled, including hunting, fishing, photography, birdwatching, and environmental education programs that normally attract 30 million visitors a year to the Service's 508 national wildlife refuges.

Some personnel will remain on duty to care for fish at national fish hatcheries, to protect physical facilities at national wildlife refuges, and for emergencies such as spills of hazardous waste or toxic substances that threaten fish and wildlife.

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